# INDIA

## A Record and Review of Indian Affairs

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This Supplement consists of a VERBATIM Report, specially drawn up for "India," of the Debates on Indian subjects in both Houses of Parliament, and questions put on such subjects and the answers given to them, arranged chronologically, from June 1st to June 25th.

# Imperial Parliament.

*June 1st.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE SUDAN EXPEDITION.

Mr. J. MORLEY asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could now lay upon the Table any correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and the Governments of Germany and Italy relating to recent affairs in the Sudan. In putting this question to the right hon. gentleman he would ask him whether he was aware that the Italian Government had laid before the Italian Parliament a Green-book containing despatches and communications bearing upon this very important subject which might perhaps guide Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. CURZON: Yes, Sir; in reply to the last question of the right hon. gentleman, I am well aware that a Green-book has been laid before the Italian Parliament, and I am also familiar with its contents, but it cannot be accurately described as relating for the most part to recent affairs in the Sudan—(cries of "Oh" and hear, hear)—and therefore it does not bear upon this question. In reply to the first question, I have to say that there has been no correspondence answering to this description with Germany. The correspondence with Italy has referred almost exclusively to military operations, and could not, therefore, at the present time be produced.

Mr. J. MORLEY: In reference to the right hon. gentleman's answer to my second question, we, of course, in this Parliament have had no opportunity of reading the Green-book, but some of us, I believe, possess copies of it privately procured, and we have had access, of course, to the *précis* of the contents of that book published in one or two of the London newspapers. I would ask the right hon. gentleman whether he considers it possible for us to enter into the discussion which we hope to have on the subject on Thursday next without knowing what communications have passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Italian Government, and without knowing whether the *précis* of these communications as reported—the *précis* of the reports in the Green-book—are authentic or not. Surely it is impossible—(cries of "Order!")—for us to discuss the matter unless we are placed on equal terms with the Italian Parliament?

Mr. CURZON: That is rather a difficult and complex question to answer without notice, but it does not occur to me that the discussion on Thursday next on the question of the employment of Indian troops in Suakin is at all necessarily connected with matters that have already appeared in the Italian Green-book. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. MORLEY: I should, of course, be out of order if I were to attempt to argue that point. Thursday will be the occasion for arguing it. But are we to understand from the right hon. gentleman that we are not to have the same communications that the Italian Government thought proper to make upon the African question to the Italian Parliament?

Mr. CURZON: No, Sir; I believe there is no present intention of laying before this Parliament papers which have already been laid before the Italian Parliament.

Mr. T. G. BOWLES asked whether, having seen the Italian Green-book, the right hon. gentleman was aware that in that book there were several despatches, and drafts of despatches, by Lord Salisbury, and that in one case where the draft of a despatch was submitted to the Italian Government they complained of it, and it was subsequently corrected by Lord Salisbury? Is the right hon. gentleman also aware——

The SPEAKER: Order, order. That is a question of which notice should be given.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: May I ask the right hon. gentleman, on the same subject, whether he can lay in the library of the House a copy of the Italian Green-book? I gather from what the right hon. gentleman says that he has it.

Mr. CURZON: I do not know whether any copies are available in the Foreign Office; I have only seen one copy myself, but if there are copies available I shall be very happy to comply with the request of the hon. member.

Mr. T. G. BOWLES: Will the right hon. gentleman give us those English despatches which are published in the Green-book?

Mr. CURZON: No, Sir; I cannot, without the authority of the Secretary of State, agree to give any despatches at all. I have already answered the question put to me on that point, and have endeavoured to explain that the discussion on Thursday does not appear to me to turn on the questions arising out of that Green-book.

Mr. T. G. BOWLES: I will put down the same question for to-morrow.

Mr. J. MORLEY: I do not wish to be discourteous to the right hon. gentleman, but is he not aware that Lord Salisbury in another place, on the 17th of March, said that there had been considerable communications—that was his expression—with the Italian Government? However, I will put another question on the paper to the right hon. gentleman to-morrow.

Mr. CURZON: Yes, Sir; but may I just on that point say that the considerable communications have been for the most part by word of mouth, and such communications it is impossible to lay before the House.

Sir C. DILKE: With reference to the question of the hon. member for King's Lynn, has not Lord Salisbury's assent to the publication of all despatches been asked in the usual way by the Italian Government, and may not the Under-Secretary

of State therefore assume that the despatches laid before the Italian Parliament may be laid before this House?

Mr. BALFOUR: I think it must be evident to the House that it is very inconvenient that the Under Secretary should be pressed without notice for an answer to such questions. After all, there are two days before the debate comes on in regard to the Suakin troops, and I would beg the right hon. gentleman to put the question down on the paper.

*June 2nd.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### INDIAN TROOPS FOR THE SUDAN.

### THE RESOLUTION POSTPONED.

Mr. J. MORLEY asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would, before Thursday, lay before the House any telegrams that had passed with the Government of India as to the despatch of an Indian force to Suakin.

Lord G. HAMILTON: Although I could not give the telegrams, yet Her Majesty's Government consider that the House should be in possession of the views of the Indian Government before any discussion takes place upon the despatch of Indian troops to Suakin, and I am considering how that object can best be attained.

Mr. J. MORLEY: I may say that I only put the word "telegrams" in the question because I understood the noble lord the other day promised my right hon. friend and hon. friends behind me that the telegrams should be produced.

Mr. BUCHANAN asked the right hon. gentleman whether he had arranged with the home Government that all charges for extra allowances, pensions, or gratuities to officers or soldiers of the Indian force sent to Suakin, and charges for pensions or gratuities to the families of officers or soldiers of the force killed or disabled during the expedition, should be paid by the Imperial Exchequer; and whether, to avoid loss by delay in the settlement of accounts between the two Governments, he would secure, as was done when the Indian troops went to Malta, an advance from the Treasury to cover temporary outlays by India on Imperial account.

Lord G. HAMILTON: It has been arranged that all extra expenses shall be borne by the Treasury, and this term includes such charges as are mentioned in the first part of the question.

As soon as an estimate can be obtained from India as to the amount of extra expenditure incurred on Imperial account, application will be made to the Treasury for an advance.

Mr. BUCHANAN asked the right hon. gentleman what was the nature and number of the force of all arms that was being sent from India to Suakin.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The force consists of:—

| | British Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. | Natives of all ranks. |
|---|---|---|
| One Regiment Native Cavalry .. | 13 | 500 |
| One Native Mountain Battery .. | 5 | 265 |
| One Company Sappers and Miners .. | 7 | 168 |
| Two Regiments Native Infantry .. | 26 | 1,474 |
| Total .. .. | 51 | 2,407 |

Mr. JOHN MORLEY asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he would lay upon the Table any Despatches from Her Majesty's Government relating to East African affairs, which had recently been laid before the Italian Parliament.

Mr. CURZON: I shall be happy to lay upon the Table any despatches which answer the description of the right hon. gentleman. I do not, however, think there are more than one or two.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government had given attention to the Green Book recently published by the Italian Government, containing correspondence relative to Italian proceedings in Africa;

Whether, on 19th February, 1896, Her Majesty's Government submitted confidentially to the Italian Ambassador in London the draft of a despatch proposed to be sent by Lord Salisbury in reply to a letter from Ras Mangasha, the son of King John of Abyssinia:

Whether, at the request of the Italian Ambassador in London, Her Majesty's Government corrected the draft despatch, and on 28th February, 1896, submitted to the Ambassador another and different draft, containing the declaration that Italy was the friend and ally of this country:

Whether the consent of Her Majesty's Government to the publication of its despatches and drafts was asked for and obtained by the Italian Government before publishing the same:

And, whether Her Majesty's Government propose to lay before the House the correspondence relative to the Italian operations in Africa, including any despatches which passed between the Italian Government and Lord Rosebery's Administration.

Mr. CURZON: The answer to the first and second paragraphs is in the affirmative. In answer to the third paragraph Her Majesty's Government is on friendly terms with the Government of Italy and also with the Government of Abyssinia. But it would clearly be improper that we should at the present juncture lay before the House the language which we have used in any attempts we may have made to improve the relations of those two Powers. The answer to the fourth paragraph is in the negative. As to the fifth paragraph. The present opportunity is not a fitting one for laying papers on the Table of the House dealing with operations still pending. When peace is restored the Government will be happy to consider what papers can properly be laid on the Table.

Mr. T. G. BOWLES: With regard to the third paragraph of the question, I think there is some confusion. May I ask whether the right hon. gentleman can answer categorically that paragraph?

Mr. CURZON: That is the paragraph I have answered in the negative, and no further reply is necessary. (Laughter.)

Mr. T. G. BOWLES: That is no answer at all.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES then asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in December, 1895, Her Majesty's Government received a request from the Italian Government to allow Italian troops to be disembarked and to pass through Zeila in order to operate against the Abyssinians, which request was supported by Count Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador in London:

Whether the India Office opposed the giving of this consent, but was overruled by Lord Salisbury:

Whether Lord Salisbury, on 25th February, 1896, telegraphed to Aden to authorise the examination by Italian officers of Duncareta roads as an anchorage for Italian vessels of war:

Whether the delay of this authorisation to that date was due to the opposition of the India Office, which was overruled by Lord Salisbury:

Whether he could say on what grounds the India Office opposed the landing of Italian troops at Zeila and the examination of the anchorage at Duncareta, and on what grounds Lord Salisbury overruled the opposition:

And, whether Her Majesty's Government proposed to lay upon the Table of this House the Correspondence on these subjects.

Mr. CURZON: Certain facilities were asked for by the Italian Government, which involved a permission to pass through some portions of Her Majesty's Somali Coast Protectorate. After consultation with the Indian Government Her Majesty's Government expressed their willingness to concur in this suggestion subject to the limitations necessary to prevent it from trenching on the rights of other Powers. No final conclusion was arrived at, but the details of the negotiations involved questions at issue with the Governments of Italy and France, and the *de facto* Government of Harrar, and I do not think the matter is one on which the House will require me to give fuller details.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: With regard to all these depatches did I not understand the right hon. gentleman to say in the discussion yesterday that he would lay in the Library of the House the Italian Green-book, which contains every despatch which the right hon. gentleman says he will not give to the House of Commons?

Mr. CURZON: The hon. gentleman is not correct in both the statements which he has made. I said I would lay the Green-

book if I found that there was more than one copy at the Foreign Office. I find there is only one copy—(laughter)—and that is under examination by myself. (Renewed laughter.) As to the second part of the question the despatches which I have promised to lay on the Table are those asked for by the right hon. gentleman which have already appeared in the Italian Green-book and of which I think there are but one or two copies.

Mr. T. G. BOWLES: I wish to ask whether he has also received a second Italian Green-book?

Mr. CURZON: I have received more than that; I have received three. (Laughter.)

Mr. LABOUCHERE asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether a communication was received by Her Majesty's Government on 10th March from the Italian Ambassador in London, to the effect that the Governor of Massowah had telegraphed that 10,000 Dervishes were said to be hovering around Kassala, and asking whether Her Majesty's Government would decide to make a diversion by an advance on the Nile; whether the next day telegraphic orders were sent to Lord Cromer directing him to make a military diversion towards Dongola; and whether, before the advance was ordered, the Egyptian Government had been consulted on the matter and expressed its approval.

Mr. CURZON: Some time before the communications alluded to by the hon. gentleman, the question of an advance against the Dervishes had been under discussion with the Egyptian Government, who were anxious that such operations should be undertaken in order to insure the security of Egypt. With respect, however, to the time and circumstances of the action which Her Majesty's Government sanctioned, we were undoubtedly influenced by the representations which we received from the Italian Government of the danger to which the Italian position at Kassala was exposed, the fall of which place at that time would have involved a serious menace to the security of Egyptian territory.

Mr. J. MORLEY: Do we understand that Her Majesty's Government had under consideration communications from Egypt as to the threatened advance of the Dervishes before the 10th of March—that is to say, before the Italian Ambassador waited upon Lord Salisbury?

Mr. CURZON: Yes, Sir. There had been communications between Her Majesty's Government and Lord Cromer on behalf of the Egyptian Government prior to that date as to the danger to Egyptian territory if a Dervish victory or a Dervish advance occurred.

Sir C. DILKE: Are the Government under present circumstances still of opinion that Lord Cromer's despatches cannot be laid before Parliament?

Mr. CURZON: I do not understand how that question arises, and I do not think it desirable to depart from the ordinary custom in regard to this matter.

Sir C. DILKE: It arises out of the answer just given. The right hon. gentleman alluded to despatches communicated through Lord Cromer as to the views of the Egyptian Government in regard to an advance by the Dervishes. Cannot they be laid before Parliament?

Mr. CURZON: No, I cannot depart from the ordinary rule.

Mr. BALFOUR: I have to state with regard to the arrangements made for the debate on the subject of the employment of Indian troops in Egypt, that my noble friend the Secretary of State for India communicated to me after Question time last night, a telegraphic message which he had received from the Indian Government, earnestly pressing that the matter should not be gone on with until Her Majesty's Government had received and considered a despatch embodying their views on the subject. That is a request which we cannot refuse, and under those circumstances I am afraid I must ask the House to pass from the arrangement fixed for Thursday, and allow the matter to stand over to a later day.

Mr. J. MORLEY said that the House was, of course, bound to accept the position stated by the right hon. gentleman, but he understood the Secretary of State for India to have stated a few minutes before that he would produce the views of the Indian Government, with a view to the discussion on Thursday.

Lord G. HAMILTON: I said before the discussion took place, not before Thursday.

Mr. J. MORLEY: Oh, I beg pardon; but we ought to have an understanding that the earliest possible day will be found for the discussion of the general subject of the employment of the Indian troops. We hold that the consent of Parliament is a necessary condition to their employment, and we press for an early day, no matter what may be the views of the Indian Government as to the charge for those troops. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BALFOUR: It would be improper for me to argue the the question last raised, but I think the right hon. gentleman will feel that it is absolutely impossible for us to do more than give the earliest day we can after the despatch of the Indian Government has been received, and time has been given to my noble friend to consider it. I do not think that ought to occupy a very long period—not more than a fortnight or three weeks.

Sir W. HARCOURT: I understand that a despatch is coming. How long will it take to reach this country?

Mr. BALFOUR: A fortnight or three weeks.

Sir W. HARCOURT: Does the right hon. gentleman say we shall have no opportunity of discussing the despatch of troops to Suakin apart from the question of who is to pay, which is a subsidiary question altogether? We desire to have an opportunity of discussing the subject of the despatch of the troops.

Mr. BALFOUR: I think the right hon. gentleman will feel that he cannot ask the Government to give two days to this discussion. The right hon. gentleman appears to have forgotten that under his own Government in 1885 the troops were actually engaged before a resolution was brought before the House at all. (Laughter.)

Mr. LABOUCHERE: Then I beg to say that it is not beyond the bounds of probability that we may take a day. (Laughter.)

Mr. ALLAN (for Sir E. GOURLEY) asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he was aware that, prior to the Nile expedition for the relief of the late General Gordon, the naval and military advisers of the Egyptian Government recommended that a flotilla of ironclad monitors, armed with quick-firing guns, should be built for the purpose of patrolling and holding the Nile as far as the Bahr-el-Ghazal; and whether it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to construct and despatch in time for the next rising of the Nile craft of this description, and suitable for passing the rapids wholly or otherwise, for the purpose of assisting in the capture of Dongola, Berber, and Khartum.

Mr. GOSCHEN: Three stern-wheel protected steamers are now being built for the Egyptian Government for service on the Nile, and are to be delivered in the course of the next three months. They are specially designed for this service, and will have an armament of quick-firing guns.

## THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY IN BOMBAY.

Mr. BHOWNAGGREE asked the Secretary of State for India—in view of the fact that the Government of India issued a resolution in 1882 in which they expressed a desire that all possible encouragement should be held out to the development of sugar cane industry in the Bombay Presidency, and the Government of Bombay acting upon this instruction held out hopes in 1883 and 1884 to the proprietor of a sugar refinery in Poona that he would be allowed to effect retail sale of rum (which was a bye-product of sugar manufacture) under similar conditions to those which were adopted in Madras and other parts of India, and that in consequence of this privilege being withheld the sugar refinery at Poona had to be closed in 1892—whether, as a means of reviving and developing this industry in Bombay, he would recommend the local governments to give all sugar refineries the privilege of selling rum under the same conditions as prevail at Madras and elsewhere.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I have no complete information about the Poona sugar factory to which my hon. friend refers, but a copy of his question will be forwarded to the Government of India and their attention will be drawn to the matter.

## ALLEGED ILLICIT TRADE IN AMMUNITION.

Mr. BHOWNAGGREE asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been drawn to statements recently made in the *Pioneer* to the effect that a large illicit trade was carried on in ammunition between the regular Afghan soldiers and the tribesmen in the Hindu Kush, and that during the Chitral campaign a consignment of Kabul made ammunition

was sent into Bajour from the Sipah Salar's camp beyond Asmar, also that as regards Martini-Henry rifles the tribes had an abundant supply of cartridges the majority of which had not come from India:

And, whether any measures could be taken by the Government of India, through His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, to check or prevent such transfer of munitions of war to the tribesmen.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I have been unable to trace the statements in the *Pioneer* to which my hon. friend refers, nor have I any official information on the subject. I will, however, make further inquiries.

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*June 4th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS:

### THE COTTON DUTIES.

On the motion of Sir W. Wedderburn an Address was presented for "Return of Opinions and reasons entered in the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Secretary of State in Council, under 21 and 22 Vict., c. 106, s. 23, with reference to the despatch of the 2nd day of April, 1896, to the Government of India, leaving to their operations Acts 2 and 3 of 1896 on the subject of the Indian Tariff Act and the Cotton Duties."

### RHEA FIBRE.

Sir JOSEPH LEESE asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to the recent discovery of Professor Bilderbeck Gomess of an alleged method of treating rhea fibre on an economical and effective basis:

And, having regard to the great importance of such a discovery in connection with both the agricultural and manufacturing industries of India and the Home textile manufactures, if he would cause enquiries to be made with the object of developing the production of this fibre.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: My attention has not been called to the process mentioned in the hon. member's question; but if it has a commercial value, I have no doubt that it will receive attention from those who are specially interested in the subject. As at present advised, I see no ground for any official enquiry.

### RE-SETTLEMENTS IN JABALPUR.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that in the Jabalpur Division of the Central Provinces the recent re-settlement enhanced the land revenue and other public charges beyond the limitations prescribed by the Government of India, letter No. 451, of 24th August, 1887; whether 60 per cent. was recognised as a reasonable limit of enhancement; and whether the recent enhancements in Jabalpur exceeded 60 per cent. and left no margin of profit to the proprietor:

Whether there was no canal irrigation in the Central Provinces, and that the principal crops had failed for the last three years:

And, whether he would move the Government of India to modify the new settlement, and would suspend its operation for the present, having regard to the existing agricultural distress.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: It is the fact that the recent enhancements of land revenue in some of the districts of the Jabalpur division have exceeded 60 per cent. It is not the fact that no margin of profit is left to the proprietor. Speaking generally, the share of the rental left to the landlord is everywhere 40 per cent.; in many cases it is 50 per cent. or upwards.

There is no canal irrigation in the Central Provinces. In two districts and part of a third district, out of the eighteen districts which compose the Central Provinces, there has been serious failure or shortness of crop for three years.

Large suspensions and remissions of land revenue have been granted in the two districts of Sangor and Damoli, and partial suspensions elsewhere. I do not propose to move the Government of India to modify the settlement.

### "STATE LANDLORDISM IN MADRAS."

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN asked the Secretary of State for India, whether an answer had been received from the Madras Government to his despatch of 1893 regarding improvements in the system of dealing with land revenue defaulters; if so, whether a further despatch on the subject had been sent to the Madras Government; and whether he would lay upon the Table of the House the whole correspondence, including the letters of Mr. Alexander Rogers, late member of Council in Bombay;

And, whether his attention had been drawn to a tabular statement at page 180 of the current number of the journal INDIA, purporting to set forth, from documents at the India Office, all the material figures as to which he stated that it was necessary to refer to the Government of Madras.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: An answer has been received from the Government of Madras and a further despatch has been sent to them on the subject of land revenue defaulters. There will be no objection to laying on the Table the correspondence when it is concluded. I have not seen the paper to which the hon. member refers in the second paragraph of his question.

### WHERE IS THE FRONTIER?

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN asked the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention had been drawn to a statement in the *Times of India* of 18th April last, that a military force had proceeded from Wana to Haidari, Tach, and Sarwakai, and that military posts were being constructed at those places:

And, whether those places were beyond the external frontiers of British India; and, if so, whether under Section 55 of the Government of India Act of 1858, the consent of both Houses of Parliament would be obtained for this expenditure.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: The places mentioned in the hon. member's question are not beyond the external frontiers of Her Majesty's Indian possessions: the section which he cites, therefore, does not apply to the case.

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*June 5th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE SUDAN EXPEDITION.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the statement in the telegram of 12th March, 1896, as it appeared in the papers recently laid before the Italian Parliament, from the Italian Ambassador in London to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Rome, was correct, namely, that "Lord Salisbury, after a meeting of the Cabinet, telegraphed to Lord Cromer to take steps for executing a military demonstration towards Dongola, with a view to making a diversion in our favour":

Whether, in taking this decision, Her Majesty's Government acted on the advice of Lord Cromer:

And whether any communication took place with the other European Powers in regard to such a military demonstration, before or after the decision of the Government.

Mr. GEORGE N. CURZON: Lord Cromer was informed by telegraph on March 12th that Her Majesty's Government had decided to authorise an advance of Egyptian troops in the valley of the Nile for the security of the Egyptian frontiers, and also as a diversion in favour of Kassala. As I have twice previously stated in reply to similar questions, Her Majesty's Government had, before this decision was arrived at, been in communication with Lord Cromer and the military authorities in Egypt, who had expressed the opinion that a forward movement against the Dervishes should be made in view of the position of Kassala. No previous consultation took place with the European Powers. But they were informed afterwards that Her Majesty's Government had authorised the advance of Egyptian troops, and the objects of the expedition were explained to them.

Mr. J. MORLEY: I may, perhaps, ask the right hon. gentleman whether there is any serious objection to producing the communication made to Lord Cromer on March 12th.

Mr. CURZON: No doubt the Secretary of State will consider the propriety of including that and any other papers in any collection of documents that may subsequently be laid before the House.

Mr. J. MORLEY: May we know when that collection of papers is likely to be made? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CURZON: That is a question that I cannot answer without notice.

Mr. J. MORLEY: Will the collection of papers also include the communication made to the foreign Powers to which the right hon. gentleman has referred?

Mr. CURZON: That, again, is a matter which, of course, I must submit to the judgment of the Secretary of State.

Mr. COURTNEY: The right hon. gentleman in his principal answer has repeated again the ambiguous word "who." (Hear, hear.) I would ask him if the word "who" in this answer refers to Lord Cromer as well as to the military authorities?

Mr. CURZON: I apologise if my grammar is unacceptable to the House, but, as on previous occasions, so now, the word "who" refers to both parties.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY asked the Secretary of State for India whether the question of the despatch of an Indian force to the Sudan, and of the proportion of the charge of the force, had been considered by the Indian Council.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: Both the questions referred to by the right hon. gentleman were considered by the Indian Council before I gave notice of the resolution which is awaiting discussion.

Mr. J. MORLEY: I believe it is the practice in a case of this kind, if there should be any dissentients in the India Council, their names are produced in this House. That was done, I understand, in the case of the cotton duties and the Contagious Diseases Act, and I wish to know will that precedent be followed in the present case?

Lord G. HAMILTON: I have not the slightest objection if the right hon. gentlemen wishes them.

Mr. J. MORLEY: Then the noble lord will lay them on the Table of the House?

Lord G. HAMILTON: Yes.

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*June 8th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF INDIA.

East India (Progress and Condition). Paper (presented 5th June) to be printed. [No. 218.]

### THE ARREST ON A HAIDARABAD RAILWAY.

Mr. PICKERSGILL asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to the case of Mr. Yusufuddin, a talukdar in the service of the Haidarabad State, who was recently arrested at a railway station in His Highness the Nizam's dominions, under the authority of a warrant issued by a British magistrate in the Punjab:

Could he state what was the precise nature of the charge against Mr. Yusufuddin:

Were there any precedents for effecting an arrest, under the warrant of a British magistrate, on railway property in India outside British territory, except for offences committed on or in connexion with railways or railway trains:

Was there any statutory authority under which the warrant against Mr. Yusufuddin could be executed in the circumstances stated:

And, if the warrant was executed in virtue of an administrative regulation of the railway department, would he suggest to the Indian Government the propriety of placing the procedure in such cases on a statutory basis.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: My attention has been drawn to the case, and I find that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has given leave to enter an appeal raising the question whether the arrest was legal.

I cannot enter into any discussion of a matter which is *sub judice*.

### REPORTED EXECUTION OF INDIAN MERCHANTS.

Sir WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH asked the Secretary of State for India if his attention had been drawn to a report of the execution of twenty-three leading Indian merchants at Kilwa, in German East Africa, for alleged complicity in a rebellious rising in that district:

And if he could give any information on the subject.

Mr. GEORGE CURZON: We have heard nothing at the Foreign Office of the alleged execution of Indian merchants at Kilwa, nor have I seen anywhere the report to which my hon. friend alludes.

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*June 9th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### INDIAN TROOPS AT SUAKIN.

Sir CHARLES DILKE asked the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, pending appeal, it would be necessary to find for the Egyptian operations in the Sudan and for the Indian expedition to Suakin monies other than those held by the mixed tribunals to have been illegally advanced by Mr. Money and others from the Reserve Fund:

And, whether it was intended by Her Majesty's Government to invite Parliament to come to the help of the Egyptian Government in respect of such charges.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: The answer to the first part of the question is no. So far as the Egyptian operations are concerned, the extraordinary expenses of the Indian garrison in the Sudan will, I think, in accordance with the usual practice, be defrayed out of the Treasury chest. Of course in what way the Treasury chest will be repaid is a question for future consideration. The second question is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. DALZIEL inquired whether they were to understand that the right hon. gentleman adhered to the declaration he made in introducing the Budget.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: Certainly. Of course at that time I did not anticipate the decision of the tribunal. That decision is subject to appeal, and I have every hope it will be set aside.

Sir C. DILKE: Without desiring to press the Government to-day on a matter which they state is under consideration, will they be prepared to tell us, at all events soon, what is the rate of expenditure and from what actual source it is being met at the present time?

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: The Egyptian expenditure is, of course, being met by Egyptian funds, which are by no means limited to the £500,000 which has been already advanced.

Mr. DALZIEL: Will this be the case until the appeal is heard which, I understand, will not be until October? Will that be the source in the meantime?

The SPEAKER: I think notice should be given of that question.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: Perhaps I may be allowed to say that there is nothing in what has occured which makes any difference, in my opinion, in the position in which we at present stand.

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*June 10th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### PETITION.

Singh, Sirdar Bhai Jasmir.—Petition from Cis Sutlej, for inquiry into his case, to lie upon the Table.

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*June 11th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### INDIAN TROOPS AT SUAKIN.

### MINUTES OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL.

On the motion of Mr. JOHN MORLEY, a return was granted of opinions and reasons entered in the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Secretary of State of India in Council, on the 16th day of May, under 21 and 22 Vict., c. 106, s. 23, with reference to the expenses of the troops to be despatched to Africa in aid of the Egyptian troops.

### THE INVASION OF KAFIRISTAN.

Mr. Arthur Pease asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had any further information on the subject of the Amir's action in Kafiristan.

Lord George Hamilton: I have received a letter from the Government of India on the whole subject referred to in the hon. member's question, and I shall be happy to lay the correspondence upon the Table if the hon. member will move for it.

### INDIAN TROOPS AT SUAKIN.

Mr. Gibson Bowles asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could state the amount of the cash balance at present in the Treasury chest:

Whether it was in accordance with the Treasury chest Regulations to make, out of that chest, advances to the Indian Government for the ordinary or extraordinary expenses of Indian troops, or for the direct payment of such expenses:

Whether he proposed to submit to this House a vote to provide the money for repayment to the Treasury chest of any sums he might expend out of that chest for the expedition to Suakin of Indian troops:

And, whether there was any precedent for paying the expense of a military expedition out of the Treasury chest without such expedition having previously been sanctioned by Parliament.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer: The exact cash balance in the Treasury chest fund at any particular moment cannot be stated, as it depends on the balances in the hands of several accounting officers in the various parts of the world. The answer to the second paragraph of the question is yes. The Act of 1877 authorises the Treasury to employ the fund in making temporary advances for any public service, to be repaid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament to such service, or "out of any other moneys applicable thereto." Any advance out of the chest on account of the expedition at Suakin must, therefore, be repaid either by a vote of this House or by the Egyptian Government. The answer to the last paragraph of the question is yes.

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*June 12th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE COTTON DUTIES.

East India (Indian Tariff Act and the Cotton Duties),—Return (presented 11th June), to be printed. (No. 229.)

### THE INVASION OF KAFIRISTAN.

East India (Kafiristan),—On the motion of Mr. Arthur Pease, a Return was granted of "Copies of Correspondence relating to Afghan proceedings in Kafiristan."

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*June 15th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### RETIREMENT OF UNCOVENANTED OFFICERS.

Mr. Barnes asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India had been moved to reduce the minimum service of uncovenanted officers for voluntary retirement on pension from 30 years to 25, in accordance with the evidence of the financial representative of the India Office before the Select Committee of the House, and in accordance with the observations of the Chairman of that Committee, then Under Secretary of State for India.

Lord George Hamilton: The Secretary of State has made no such suggestion to the Government of India.

I may add that I have not been able to trace the statements to which my honourable friend refers in support of the change which he apparently advocates.

### THE JHALAWAR CASE.

Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could state when the Jhalawar Deposition Papers would be laid upon the Table of the House:

Whether he could inform the House as to what arrangements had been made for the Mahárájá's future and allowances:

And whether the son of the deposed Mahárájá would be treated as the future ruler of the State of Jhalawar.

Lord Geo. Hamilton: The Papers to be presented are in type, and will be laid on the Table as soon as the Printers can finish the work.

The question of succession, which involves some difficult issues, and the final arrangements for the late Mahárāj Rána's residence and allowances, are engaging the attention of the Government of India.

### THE INDIA MEDAL.

Captain Chaloner asked the Secretary of State for India, whether, inasmuch as the India Medal was given for the 1863 Waziri expedition, and also for the 1895 expedition against the same tribe, when the only fight (viz.: at Wano) was previous to the expedition being sent, and out of which it arose he would consider the question with a view to granting the India Medal to those who took part in the 1881 expedition, in which there was a fight.

Lord George Hamilton: I can only refer my hon. friend to the reply given by my predecessor to a somewhat similar question on the 23rd July, 1894, nor could I re-open the question by reconsidering the request to grant a medal for an expedition which took place fifteen years ago.

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*June 16th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE TENURE OF REGIMENTAL COMMANDS.

Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India whether any recommendations had been received from the Commander-in-Chief in India in favour of granting to any officer or officers who had been in actual command of Native regiments for the regulation period of seven years an extension of command for one or two years:

Whether there was any precedent for such an extension of command in the case of the completion of seven years' service in the Indian Army:

Whether his attention had been called to the fact that an assurance had been given by the Secretary of State for War that in the British Army, when tenure of regimental command was limited by the regulations to four years, in every case when two years' extension was allowed by Royal Warrant and asked for, the manner in which extension would affect the promotion of officers of lower rank would be carefully considered:

Whether he was aware that, even with the tenure of command limited to seven years, there would be many officers now serving as Squadron and Wing Commanders who would never obtain a full period of command, and that if this tenure was extended their chances of attaining the command would be still further diminished:

And whether he would give a similar assurance to the Indian Army to that given to the British Army, that no extensions of command would be sanctioned without a careful consideration of the effect of such extension upon the prospects of officers of lower ranks.

Lord George Hamilton: The extensions of the tenure of regimental commands referred to in the first question are permissible under the Indian regulations in certain cases. They are granted at the discretion of the Government of India on the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief in India, and do not require the sanction or approval of the Secretary of State.

No other extensions have ever been granted.

### EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCE.

Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India, whether, with regard to the exchange compensation allowance, it had been decided that those officers whose salaries were regulated by statute would not only be debarred from receiving the allowance in future but would be called upon to refund moneys already received.

Whether, if this decision had been arrived at by the Government of India, consideration had been given to the ruinous effect of requiring officers, to whom the Government had been paying the compensation for years, without demur, on the

ground admitted generally in the case of Indian Civil Servants that they were fairly entitled to some compensation for the loss to which they were subjected by the fall in the exchange, to recoup out of their diminished salaries considerable arrears of money which they had received under Government sanction and expended in good faith :

And, whether he would reconsider the decision.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON : The question as to the possibility of granting exchange compensation allowance to officers whose salaries are regulated by statute is a legal one : and I believe that the Government of India are now giving their attention to it. Until the legal question shall have been finally settled, no decision on the question of refunding will be taken.

### INDIAN IMMIGRANTS IN REUNION.

Sir SEYMOUR KING asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would lay upon the Table the report of Mr More Molyneux on the question of the emigration of coolies from India to Réunion :

And, whether, before a decision to sanction the re-opening of coolie immigration into Réunion was arrived at, the House would be afforded an opportunity of passing an opinion on any scheme that might be proposed.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON : The report alluded to is probably by Mr. Muir Mackenzie who was deputed by the Government of India to examine into the condition of the Indian Immigrants in Réunion.

The Report is a confidential document, and I am sorry that I cannot present it. The question whether emigration to Réunion may be resumed is one for diplomatic negotiation and I cannot say more than that no reopening of the coolie emigration can be sanctioned unless I am satisfied as to the conditions under which it can be resumed.

### THE SIAM AGREEMENT.

Mr. MACLEAN asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he had received a despatch from the Government of India expressing the views of that Government on the agreement with reference to Siam recently concluded between France and England :

And, whether he would lay any such despatch upon the Table of the House.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON : A despatch has recently been received on this subject from the Indian Government and if my hon. friend moves for it I will lay it upon the Table of the House.

Sir CHARLES DILKE asked if the Indian Government were consulted beforehand.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON : Certainly.

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*June 18th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE TREASURY CHEST FUND.

Mr. COHEN asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could state in what manner it was proposed to leave in the hands of the Treasury chest officers at the various stations abroad the funds necessary as a working capital for effecting payments abroad for which the Treasury chest was by statute destined, if the funds of the Treasury chest were temporarily appropriated to defray the cost of the expedition to Egypt, seeing that on March 31, 1895, the sum of £378,095 19s. 11d. was in the hands of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General, and £210,063 1s. in the hands of the Treasury chest officer at 15 colonial stations, and that the total amount of the Treasury chest fund was limited to £700,000.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER : I do not see any difficulty in this matter. The proposed advances from the Treasury chest are for the extraordinary expenditure of the Indian garrison at Suakin. It appears from the return from which the hon. member quotes that the statutory *maximum* of £700,000 for the aggregate of cash balances had not been reached at the date given ; but, even so, the amount standing to the credit of the Paymaster-General was £378,000.

### THE SIAM AGREEMENT.

East India (Siam and the Upper Mekong).—Address for "Return of Letter from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, dated the 6th day of May, 1896, on the subject of the Agreement with France respecting Siam and the Upper Mekong." (Mr. MACLEAN.)

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*June 19th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### STEEL SLEEPERS FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Mr. BRIGG asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had any information as to the cause of the reported failure of rolled steel sleepers in use on the Indian State railways, or the other public railways in that country ; and, if correct, whether such failure was confined to any particular district.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON : So far as my information goes, there are only three cases in which the employment of steel sleepers for Indian railways has given unsatisfactory results, and as regards two of these, the cause is said to be the saline quality of the earth in which they are laid. In the third case the deterioration is attributed to some defects in the ballast and method of laying.

### RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN INDIA.

Mr. BHOWNAGGREE asked the Secretary of State for India, whether the scheme promulgated by the Government of India in 1893 for encouraging the construction of railways in India by private enterprise, and with rupee capital, had led to a large number of applications being made for concessions for the building of railways :

And, whether he would lay upon the Table a Return showing the terms promulgated by the Government of India in 1893 and subsequently, on which such concessions were to be applied for ; the number of applications of all kinds for such concessions received from 1893 up to the present date, showing the mileage and other particulars contained in such applications ; and the number of concessions granted, with particulars relating thereto.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON : A considerable number of applications have been received at the India Office, and it is believed that others have been sent direct to the Government of India. I will make further enquiry on this subject, and when the enquiry is complete I will lay upon the Table of the House a Return of the nature suggested.

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*June 22nd.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE JHALAWAR CASE.

East India (Mahárájá Rana of Jhalawar).—Return (presented 19th June) to be printed (No. 245.)

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*June 23rd.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### POPPY CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

Mr. HENRY J. WILSON asked the Secretary of State for India if he could state what was the quantity of land which had been under poppy cultivation this year in the Behar and Benares Agencies respectively, as compared with the years 1893-4 and 1894-5.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON : The total acreage under opium cultivation in the Behar and Benares agencies during the last three seasons, deducting that in which the crop was a failure, was as follows : 1893-94, 458,181 ; 1894-95, 513,804 ; 1895-96, 519,072.

I am unable for purposes of comparison, to give the quantities in the Behar and Benares agencies separately.

### INDIAN TROOPS AT SUAKIN.

Mr. BUCHANAN asked the Secretary of State for India whether the total number of Indian troops now at Suakin was as stated in a telegram on Friday, 4,841 :

What was the cause of this large increase in the force from 2,498, the number named by him on 2nd June ;

And, what would be the estimated charge per month for ordinary expenses of the total Indian force now at Suakin or under orders to go there.

Lord George Hamilton: There has been no increase in the number of Indian Troops at Suakin as given in my reply to the hon. member on the 2nd June. In addition to these there are a considerable number of camp followers, but even if these are included, the total would fall short of 4,841.

Mr. Buchanan: Will the number to be charged for to the Indian Government be the number which the noble Lord mentioned on June 2nd?

Lord George Hamilton: Yes, that will be the total number charged for.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

### INDIAN TROOPS IN THE SUDAN.

In the course of a statement made with reference to the course of business during the Session.

Mr. Balfour said that he held himself at liberty to take a day for the discussion of the Indian troops question.

*June 25th.*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### THE UNCOVENANTED SERVICES.

Mr. MacNeill asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Resolution of the Government of India, dated 22nd June, 1895, altered the leave rules of Indian Uncovenanted Civil Servants, in accordance with the ruling of the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 188, dated 21st September, 1893, on a review of the whole subject:

Whether the concessions to those officers, all of which were granted in the first paragraph of the Resolution could only be enjoyed by any officer on condition of his consenting to come under the serious disabilities imposed in a subsequent paragraph:

Whether he was aware that in many cases the disabilities authorised in the paragraph more than neutralised the concessions of the first paragraph, and actually diminished the amount of furlough to which the uncovenanted officers concerned were formerly entitled:

Whether he could state the grounds on which these disabilities were imposed:

And, whether he would move the Government of India to amend the rules so as to afford the relief recommended by the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1890.

Lord George Hamilton: The answer to the first question is in the affirmative.

To the second and third, it is possible that some of the officers would not benefit by accepting the new concession.

To the fourth, no new disabilties have been imposed. As stated in my reply to the hon. member for the Favershan Division on the 21st May, the rules must be accepted as a whole.

To the fifth, very considerable relief has been given to the "uncovenanted" servants since 1890 in the matter of leave. I cannot admit that the recommendations of the Select Committee have not had justice done to them.